

MARCHAM PLAYERS www.marchamplayers.co.uk

Our AGM was held last month on 15th February. The review of the last 12 months of organised activities is impressive; I counted 17. Having set out to provide at least one activity per month, we seem to have done rather well, helped largely by a variety of local, or fairly local, theatre outings.



The committee remains the same as last year i.e. Dave Hutchinson (chairman), Joey Maclean (secretary), Tim Owen (treasurer), Janet Frere, Cheryl Sewell, Andrew Packford, Stuart Brighton, Chris Smith. Next year we are hoping for some new faces in committee. It is not an arduous job and to tempt you to consider it, the meetings once a month are social affairs, with the business despatched in an orderly manner leaving time for wine, nibbles and chat afterwards.

We now start off the new year with two visits to the Watermill Theatre at Newbury (probably our favourite place of entertainment). The first for a hilarious evening with a Ben Travers' farce "Plunder" on February 20th, which I afraid by the time you read this you will have missed - hard luck! - and a play "For Services Rendered" by Somerset Maugham on March 20th. We are also planning another of our popular "With Great Pleasure" evenings when members select extracts from their favourite books, and there are two more visits to the Watermill planned for May 15th, "The Rise and Fall of Little Voice" and June 25th, "The Taming of the Shrew".

New members are always welcomed, actors and non-actors alike contact Joey Maclean (Secretary - 391242) or Dave Hutchinson (Chairman - 391964).

JANET FRERE

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

In preparation for the forthcoming Season, Nets are being held on Friday evenings 19.00-21.00 at the John Mason Sports Hall. Please contact Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whittaker (391317) for details of Nets or any other information relating to the Club.



This month's historical note comes from the Minutes of a Committee Meeting of 2nd March 1911. Thus, it is recorded that: "Mr.W.S.Bradfield said that he had seen the ground rolled with a heavy roller and afterwards with a light one and that the ground perceived to be in a fairly good condition, but the plantains and moss were predominant."

Things have changed! As a result of the Club's on-going maintenance programme great improvements have been achieved. The Club's efforts in this connection were recognized by the OCA when it gave Marcham CC the Most Improved Ground Award a few years ago. It is to be hoped that the Club, now in its second century, will have a long and successful future.

CLIVE BENNETT

OUTDOOR BOWLS

Now is the time to be thinking about your forthcoming Summer activities. Whatever your age, sex, commitment to exercise (or otherwise) why not make Bowls one of these activities?

Just 2 miles up the road at Kingston Bagpuize/Southmoor is your local bowls club where you can enjoy hours of relaxing, carefree bowling on an all-weather surface at any time to suit yourself, every day of the week. Novices welcomed as instruction will be given by our friendly members.

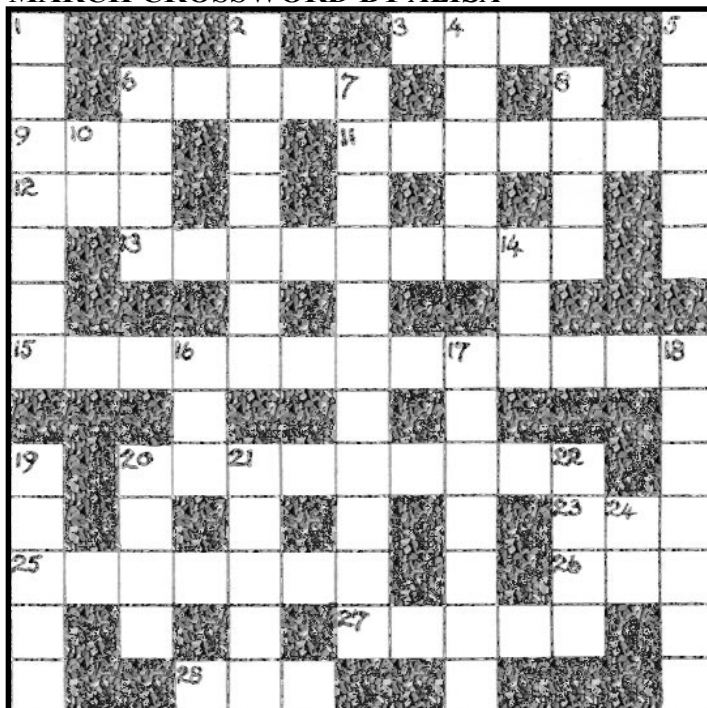
If you just want to socialise, we have a cosy clubhouse with its own bar and social events are arranged throughout the season.

The season officially starts on 14th April with an "Open Day". It's a family affair so why not bring your partner along as well!

Further details from myself, Tony Blackler (391519): Brian Grantham (391722) or our club secretary Peter Mortel (820817).

TONY B

MARCH CROSSWORD BY ALISA



ACROSS

- 3 Good serve (3)
- 6 Big animal (5)
- 9 That woman (3)
- 11 Sort of trout (7)
- 12 Meal (3)
- 13 North Street's bright spot (6.3)
- 15 The seventeenth (2.8.3)
- 20 Village near Wootton (9)
- 23 Possess (3)
- 25 Village near Stanton Harcourt
- 26 Disappointing serve (3)
- 27 Award winning house (5)
- 28 Everyone (3)

DOWN

- 1 Chessmen (7)
- 2 Stream (7)
- 4 Scale (5)
- 5 Close in Marcham (5)
- 6 Cut (4)
- 7 Sold in Manor Farm Shop (7.4)
- 8 Wild goat (4)
- 10 That man (2)
- 14 Wife of Saturn (3)
- 16 Girl's name (3)
- 17 Chessmen (7)
- 18 Village near Kidlington (7)
- 19 Meadow (5)
- 20 Ditty (4)
- 21 Nothing in Latin (5)
- 22 Sacred (4)
- 24 You and I (2)

ON THE BUSES

This month we join in celebrating 125 years of the Oxford Bus Co., the main user of Gloucester Green in the '50s and '60s (see last month's pictures) and the provider of our local services.



There weren't many! Six services on 23 on Saturdays to Oxford, but only four on other days, going via Dry Sandford and Cumnor Hill. 23s went to Wantage - but you had to come back as early as 1 20pm during the week.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays you couldn't get to Abingdon and back - other days 2-3 hours there, longer on Saturdays. No wonder older people remembering cycling and walking so much. 17s and 68s came from Farringdon via Stanford-in-the-Vale, Lyford and Garford ('General Store') to Abingdon or Oxford - but we couldn't have got to Farringdon and back.

The Oxford / Swindon bus (66) did come via Friford Heath so provided a more regular link, every 2 hours, but could mean a walk to the Dog House.

What else does the Official Timetable tell us? Our Parcel Agent was Mrs A Stimpson of 66 North Street, 'parcels to be called for'.

To check bus services call Thames Travel 01491 837988 or Stagecoach 01865 772250

BUS SPOTTER

Write to MADNews and let others know what you think about current events